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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
UPTON-UPON-SEVERN

REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Public Health Inspector

for the Year ended

31st DECEMBER, 1959

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UPTON UPON SEVERN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report for the Year 1959

To the Chairman & Members of the Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1959. In my report for 1958 I commented largely upon the problems associated with the housing of old people and the wide effect that individual problems may have upon neighbours and families. I remarked that low incidence of infectious disease tempted one to relax control measures but the importance of these measures has been demonstrated this year.

Complaints were received of fly infestation of houses within half to three quarters of a mile from the Upton tip. The increase in the number of flies in the area since the tip was opened has been amply demonstrated, but at the same time it has proved impossible to find any fly breeding within the confines of the tip. The conduct of controlled tipping at Upton is well up to the standards required by the Ministry and adequate use is made of insecticides. Lack of fly breeding on the tip was confirmed by the Director of the Local Public Health Laboratory. The question remains therefore - How comes it that this increase in the number of flies in the houses round about coincides with the start of controlled tipping at its present site?

The refuse lorries were watched as they entered the tip site and as they unloaded. Large numbers of flies travelled with each lorry, some in the slip stream behind the vehicle, others within and on the outside of the refuse cavity. These flies stay round the tip and lorries leaving were relatively free from flies. The tip is situated on rather low lying ground - most of the fields round about are given over to pasture land. The fly breeding is almost certainly occurring in and round the droppings from cattle, and it is more extensive here than elsewhere because of the number of flies brought to the tip. It is difficult to see the solution to this problem unless means can be found for destroying the flies on route to the tip.

Complaints were received of infestations of swarms of very small black flies on the ceilings of large rooms in houses not far from

/permanent

permanent pastures. These swarms appeared in August and September. Specimens of the flies were identified as the common cluster fly - a species quite harmless to man and animals.

These two infestations are mentioned in detail in order to show how there is still need for full investigation into problems which are usually regarded as common and easily solved. Both investigations were time consuming; neither produced a dramatic result or any immediate benefit to the local population. Yet these investigations must go on. If no other good comes from them - they serve to increase the knowledge of the district which is part of the stock in trade of the staff of the Health Department.

It will be seen on page 5 that there have been a large number of cases of measles during this year. Measles is one of the few diseases which seem to give rise to epidemics every two or three years - very few cases occurring in the intervening years. Whooping Cough used to follow a similar pattern in this district but since the introduction of vaccination against whooping cough this pattern has disappeared and now a few cases are reported each year. Of the ten cases of dysentery notified many of them occurred in families recently returned from the Far East, and a report has been made on this subject.

Good progress has been made during the year towards the completion of various water schemes and it is proposed to mention them in more detail next year when most of them will have been completed.

National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951

Action had to be taken in one case where an old lady became incapable of caring for herself and became not only a danger to herself but also an intolerable burden to her neighbours. It is very gratifying that after hospital treatment she was able to go to live with relatives, so that family ties were not broken.

For details of the work carried out during the year I must refer you to the succeeding pages of this report.

It only remains for me to thank Mr. Cromwell and the staff of the Council generally for their co-operation and for the happy relationship which exists between all of us.

H.F. GREEN.

Medical Officer of Health.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area:

Acreage	50,947
Number of inhabited houses according to the rate books ...	4,209
Rateable Value	£124,378
Sum represented by a penny rate	£480

Resident population (Registrar General's Estimate)	14,380
Live births	171
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	15.9
Still births	4
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	22.8
Total live and still births	175
Infant deaths	2
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 births - total	11.6
" " " " " " - legitimate	12.65
" " " " " " - illegitimate ...	-
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	-
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births ...	7.6
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	-
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live & still births ...	-
Death rate per 1,000 population	10.5
Early neo-natal mortality rate	-
Peri-natal mortality rate	-

CAUSES OF DEATHS (All ages)

	M.	F.	Total
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	1	-	1
Cancer - all forms	22	21	43
Leukaemia	3	-	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	16	10	26
Diseases of heart and arteries	35	58	93
Influenza	-	2	2
Pneumonia	9	20	29
Bronchitis	5	2	7
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
Diseases of digestive system	1	2	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Congenital malformations	2	2	4
Violence	11	4	15
All other causes	7	16	23
Totals	114	137	251

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Laboratory Services

Chemical analysis is carried out by the County Analyst, County Laboratory, Worcester. A fixed scale of charges was brought into operation for this service during the year.

Bacteriological examination is carried out as before at the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Clinics

There are none provided by this Authority.

The County Council have provided, by local arrangement with Voluntary Committees, for Infant Welfare Centres to be held in the following parishes:

Hanley Swan	... 3rd Wednesday in month at 2.30 pm
Kempsey	... 1st Thursday in month at 2.30 pm
Longdon	... 2nd Tuesday in month at 2.00 pm
Upton upon Severn	... 1st & 3rd Tuesdays in month at 2.30 pm
Welland	... 2nd & 4th Fridays in month at 2.00 pm

Clinics are also provided at Worcester and Malvern, under arrangements made by the County Council, for Maternity and Eye cases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following action was taken during the year in respect of Infectious Disease Notifications received:

Visits to premises for investigation	10
Premises disinfected after notifiable disease	-
Premises disinfected after other diseases	2

Tuberculosis

5 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year.

At the end of 1959 the tuberculosis register contained the names of 38 males and 28 females who normally reside in the district.

Table shewing number of cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year.

	Total all ages.	Age Un-known	0-1 yr.	1-2 yrs	3-4 yrs	5-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	15-24 yrs	Over 25 yrs.
Measles	149	3	3	24	22	73	22	1	1
Ac. Pneumonia	16	2	-	-	-	1	1	1	11
Whooping Cough	5	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-
Scarlet Fever	15	1	-	1	1	7	4	1	-
Dysentery	10	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	7
Food Poisoning	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
Erysipelas	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Totals	202	6	3	27	23	84	30	6	23

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

Table shewing number of children vaccinated during the year:

	Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs	2-4 yrs	5-14 yrs.	15 & over	Totals
Number of children receiving primary vaccination	93	4	1	5	1	104
Number of children re-vaccinated	-	-	-	-	2	2

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION

Table shewing number of children who have completed a primary course of pertussis vaccine (singly or in combination) during the year:

	0-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	Total
Number of children immunised	141	3	144

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

	Under 1 yr.	1-4 yrs	5-14 yrs.	Totals
Children who received a full course of primary immunisation.	97	52	8	157
Children who received a re-inforcing injection.	-	10	61	71

IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION

Table shewing number of children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1959.

Age at 31.12.59.	0-4 yrs	5-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	Total under 15 yrs.
Number Immunised	490	798	940	2,228

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year ended 31st December, 1959.

To the Chairman & Members of the District Council,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting a report on the work of the Department for the year ended 31st December, 1959.

Summary of General Visits and Inspections

General complaints	48
Drainage inspections - supervision of work	127
Drain tests	65
Visits to temporary dwellings	33
Improvement Grants - Housing Acts 1949/57	351
Visits in connection with Rent Act, 1957	9
Inspections of works in progress	99
Visits in connection with Infectious Disease	10
Inspections under Petroleum Regulations	40
Miscellaneous visits and revisits	385

Inspections under Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

Inspections of cafes, kitchens & Public Houses ...	29
Inspections of bakehouses	10
Inspections in connection with the sale of ice cream	4
Inspections of premises registered for manufacture of sausages, pressed meat etc	9
Inspections of other food premises	31
Inspections under Public Health (Meat) Regulations ...	262

Shops Act, 1950.

No action was found necessary as a result of inspections made for the purposes of Sections 37 & 38 (subsections 3,4 & 5) of the Shops Act, 1950.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Public Health (Meat) Regulations

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the area.

Post mortem examination of all animals slaughtered is carried out, and for this purpose 262 visits were made during the year.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	163	-	32	712	77
Number inspected	163	-	32	712	77
All diseases except tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole Carcases condemned	-	-	1	5	-
Carcases of which some organ or part was condemned	21	-	-	11	1
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci.	12.27%	-	3.12%	2.2%	1.3%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some organ or part was condemned	3	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.8%	-	-	-	-

Cysticerci - No carcase was found to be affected.

No. of Food Premises in the District:

Shops:-

Butchers	6
Bakers and Confectioners	7
Grocery & Provisions	39
Fish (Wet & Fried)	1
Cafes & Refreshment Houses	12
Licensed Premises	57
Food Factories	2

In addition at least two mobile shops (Butchers and Wet Fish) are known to trade in the district although being based outside it. The general standard of these vehicles is reasonably good.

Bakehouses

There are now only 7 bakehouses in the district, one having closed down during the year.

With the exception of one case where there is still need of improvement, the general standard is reasonably good.

Food & Drugs Act, 1955

No. of premises registered and purpose of registration, under Section 16:

Premises registered for storage & sale of pre-packed ice cream	38
Premises registered for manufacture of sausages, pressed meat etc.	5

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the district.

Food Condemned as Unfit for Human Consumption

Table shewing quantities of food condemned during the year.

Frozen lamb	$27\frac{1}{2}$ lbs
Fruit Pastilles	$6\frac{3}{4}$ lbs
Fish Paste	1 Jar
Canned Fruits	15 Cans
" Fruit Juice	2 "
" Soups	6 "
" Vegetables	5 "
" Milk Products	2 "
" Fish	8 "
" Meats	22 "

Disposal of Condemned Food

Large items, such as complete carcases, are collected by a specialist firm from the City of Worcester for processing, but the average small items are either burnt or buried.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

Regular inspections of the food premises in the district were made during the year.

One cafe closed down as a direct result of legal proceedings instituted for offences under the Regulations. This action was taken only after repeated requests to the occupier for improvements had been ignored.

WATER SUPPLIES

The final portion of the Central Scheme - that supplying the parish of Ripple was completed during the year.

Work of mainlaying and construction of the service reservoir at Kempsey for the North Eastern Scheme was continued.

Work of mainlaying for the South Western Scheme commenced.

SWIMMING BATHS.

There is one privately owned swimming bath in the district open to the public.

The water is obtained from a deep well on the premises and is treated by preliminary screening, filtration, simple chlorination and aeration by means of a "cascade".

The turnover period is a maximum of 6 hours.

Daily tests are made with a Lovibond Comparator by the operator for chlorine content and pH value. Two samples were submitted to the public analyst by this Authority for bacteriological examination and both proved satisfactory.

WATER SAMPLING

Public Mains Supplies

No. of samples submitted for analysis	26

Private Wells

No. of samples submitted for analysis	81
Results of analyses - Satisfactory	43
Unsatisfactory	38
No. of wells cleansed and repaired as a result of informal action	8
No. of wells closed during the year	3

HOUSING

Work on the erection of the 18 houses and 7 bungalows at Callow End, Powick, proceeded very slowly, 7 houses and 6 bungalows being provided during the year for slum clearance purposes.

4 bungalows were erected at Netherleigh Lane, Pendock, also for the rehousing of persons displaced by slum clearance.

More bungalows, or more of the smaller type of dwelling, are required in Powick, and the need of more "Old Persons Dwellings" in the locality of Upton is a matter of urgency.

SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME

No. of premises scheduled for action during 5 year period ending 31.12.60. 147

No. of premises dealt with up to 31.12.59. 104

No. of premises dealt with during the year;-

Demolition Orders made	21
Closing Orders made	7
Premises Demolished	5
Premises Demolished voluntarily	8
Premises reconditioned	7
Premises where undertakings accepted	2

Table shewing number of houses completed by the Local Authority as part of the post war programme.

Year	Dwellings completed	Year	Dwellings completed	Year	Dwellings completed
1946	10	1951	32	1956	35
1947	27	1952	58	1957	10
1948	53	1953	57	1958	10
1949	8	1954	54	1959	25
1950	46	1955	45		

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Forty-four applications for discretionary grants were received for consideration during the year.

Forty-one were approved, one withdrawn, and two were refused.

Ten applications were received for Standard Grants; nine were approved and one was refused.

RENT ACT, 1957.

No applications were received during the year for Certificates of Disrepair.

No. of Certificates of Disrepair outstanding - 4

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

Public Health Acts.

No. of premises visited	12
No. of defects or nuisances discovered	16
No. of defects or nuisances abated	13
No. of Notices served - Informal	11
No. of Notices served - Formal	2
No of legal proceedings instituted	1

Legal proceedings were instituted, and a conviction obtained, in one case were a caravan was stationed on land without the necessary licence having been obtained from the Council.

Housing Acts.

No. of premises inspected	31
No. of premises unfit for habitation	28
No. of premises not in all respects fit	3
No. of premises rendered fit	8
No. of premises in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	21
No. of premises in respect of which Closing Order were made	7

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

In addition to a number of small schemes dealing with groups of house throughout the district sewers and sewage disposal works are provided and maintained in the following parishes:

Earls Croome	- Pumping Scheme
Hanley Castle	- Gravitation
Hanley Swan	- "
Kempsey	- Pumping Scheme
Longdon	- " "
Powick	- " "
Holly Green (Ripple)	- " "
Upton upon Severn	- " "

Prescribed Particulars in the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	11	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	46	16	-	-
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises.)	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	57	27	-	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) Insufficient	2	2	-	2	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	-	3	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1	-	1	-
TOTALS	6	6	-	6	-

PART VIII of the Act - OUTWORK (Sections 110 & 111)

There are no premises in the district to which this part of the Act applies.

MORTUARY

Five bodies were accommodated in the Mortuary during the year - post mortems being carried out in 3 instances.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Refuse collection and disposal is carried out by direct labour and is under the control of the Council's Surveyor.

RODENT CONTROL.

The work of rodent control progressed smoothly throughout the year. There was an increase in the number of inspections, re-inspections and treatments carried out compared with previous years.

No. of infestations treated :-

At private dwellings	...	...	104
At business premises	...	...	117
No. of other infestations	...	...	17
No. of complaints received	...	...	107

No. of inspections and re-inspections :-

Farms, smallholdings etc.	...	...	509
Other premises	...	...	354

The annual test-bait of the public sewers in the district was carried out and indicated that the systems were virtually free from rats.

Treatment in respect of private dwellings is given free but a charge is made for treatments given to business premises based on time taken and materials used.

Conclusion

In submitting this report I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation to the Members of the Council for their support and valued asistance afforded to me during the year.

E.J. CROMWELL.

Public Health Inspector.